

Taking on everything coming their way

75th ECS keeps on producing

By Capt. Joseph Gallahan
75th Expeditionary Communications Squadron commander

If you're looking for an example of a total team effort with the focus being on the greater good of the total population and not just looking out for number one ... look no further than the 75th Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

From the beginning, you, the men and women of the 75th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, have overcome huge obstacles that would certainly have made others fail, and still gave of yourselves to serve Cairo West better. To begin, you were called upon by the Air Combat Command at the eleventh hour to fill in for the 5th Combat Communications Group when they couldn't answer the call for Bright Star 01 just one month prior to its' start. As one of two on-call Air Expeditionary Wings, you were scheduled to end your four-month on-call period July 31. The first sign of "service before self" was stepping up to the plate and accepting the challenge to deploy during your downtime window.

When you arrived on the ground Sept. 5 with 37 personnel, 20 of them were without luggage due to manifest and airline difficulties in Atlanta. The second sign of service before self came when every member of the unit worked 16- to 18-hour days to get communications up despite having no personal bags. Personal bags finally arrived 19 days later. None complained! You simply did your jobs and then some.

Some of the additional things you supplied Qui Web through proactive and creative engineering included engineering a special cable to make movie nights possible, getting a satellite dish and receiver for the giant screen tele-

vision in the Community Activities Center, hosting the disc jockey night, developed the intranet web site, developed webmail so every member of this camp could have e-mail capability, made weekly commander's calls possible, and of course ensured every work center had telephone, internet, e-mail, and radio capability despite the complex terrain and diverse layout of the camp.

As if that weren't enough, you forged ahead when the dirty details surfaced and others were not so willing to step up. You built six living tents when your fair share was four. You escorted local nationals in the K-SPAN for the first 10 days of operations when no one else would. You provided all eight bodies for the baggage detail to clear the Mena House. You provided seven Expeditionary Security Forces augmentees when your fair share was four, giving our defenders the break they deserved. You provided a detail person everyday when your fair share was far less. You provided four bodies for the trash detail to clean for the coalition distinguished guest visit — and you performed all workgroup manager functions for every organization throughout Qui Web.

Your contributions went well beyond communications support. Whenever I challenged you to assist this camp, you exceeded my expectations. You did all this and still supported Beni Suef despite reducing our footprint an additional 10 percent after Sept. 11 by canceling four additional personnel slated for that support. You exemplify the Air Force core values and truly have put service before self by serving all members of Qui Web in every conceivable fashion.

As your commander, it has been my pleasure and an honor to lead a team of dedicated professionals like yourselves. I salute you all for a job well done!



Left, A1C Joshua Searcy, 75th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, builds a radio antenna atop Comm Hill, the highest point in Cairo West. Below, A1C Dexter Huggins, 75th ECS, assists in building the 75th ECS Help Desk tent. 75th ECS developed an intranet web site, webmail so every member of the camp could have e-mail capability, made weekly commander's calls possible, and ensured every work center had telephone, internet, e-mail, and radio capability.



Photos by SrA Chrissy Szczepanski

